

## A Letter from Ex-Governor Tyler.

November 13, 1901.

The Times Publishing Company, Richmond, Va.:

Gentlemen,—The progressive spirit evinced by The Times in affording its readers the opportunity to procure at a moderate cost the valuable addition to literature, edited by Thomas B. Reed, entitled "Modern Eloquence," deserves commendation. The character of the men who are the editors of this work is assurance that the publication is of the highest literary merit. They are indeed valuable books and would be an acquisition to any library. Very truly yours,

J. HOGE TYLER.

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of the

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QUESTION OF A  
FEW DAYS.

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November 26, 1901.

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[Signed]

A. J. MONTAGUE.

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Gay, According to the Spirit.

CRITICISM UNVEILED

Virginia Editors Frankly Tell Their Readers  
What They Think of the Character,  
Quality, and Expected Results From  
the Constitutional Makers.

The oft-repeated declaration that the  
people have less interest in the Constitutional  
Convention is hardly true, if the newspapers of Virginia are to be  
taken as a gauge of public opinion, and there is none other.

There is scarcely an issue of any paper in Virginia that does not have some reference to the convention. Not all are condemnatory, but the many views and criticisms show that the editors, if not the people, attach a lively interest in what is going on in the convention hall. The following selections give a fair idea of the diversity of opinion as it exists in Virginia.

When the truth is known.  
During the several long months of anxiety between hope and fear, in which the Constitutional Convention has been meeting without a quorum, adjourning

with mileage and per diem, waiting for committee reports and scattering over the country echoes of long-drawn speeches, emanating from the conventional hall, our patience had become threadbare, and we were almost persuaded that silence had ceased to become a virtue and were it not that in our estimation a more able, or distinguished body could not have been assembled, whose hearts beat in accord with the good people of Virginia in everything that pertains to their advancement, we would long ago have raised our voice against the proceedings of that august body and declared it to be a fake.

But now, notwithstanding all that has been said by able writers and learned men of the law criticising the proceedings of the convention, we yet have a faint hope that when the truth shall have been made known, all will be well.

A summary of the proceedings and proposed changes in the convention as given out by Messrs. Carter Glass and J. H. Lindsay, also and distinguished members of the convention, will, if all their predictions be true, when the final day of adjournment is announced, enable us to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into thy rest in peace."—Warren Register.

## A Berea oracy.

It was claimed that the chief work of the convention would be to purify the ballot, so that the true representatives of the State might control its affairs directly. But, alas! and alas! It now appears that a great many members, in fact, a working majority, hold that the people are not to be trusted; the Legis-

lature is not to be trusted; that the wisdom and experience of the ages past and yet unborn abides and remains with them, and will be lost forevermore if they are not entrusted with the reins of government. But in all its details and minutia in the organic law of the State, so that there shall be small need for future statutory provisions or legislative enactments; that the adaptation of the organic law to all present and future emergencies must now and at present be made and provided for and incorporated in the Constitution itself; that the Constitution must absorb the Code and Acts of Assembly; that an automatic machine can and must be set in motion by them that will run without change or friction or further adoption. And then the ignorant though purged electorate cannot be entrusted with the interpretation and construction of this sacred instrument, but instead select and elect boards must, in the main, interpret and administer. A Bureaucracy! So far removed from the people as not to be amenable to them! Its members shall, like Catholic priests, explain and interpret that which is too sacred for the ignorant elector to profane by his touch! Shall we not then, indeed, have a bogus caucus! This trend has developed in the sub-committees and in the Committee of the Whole. The convention itself has as yet adopted nothing, we believe.—Midland Virginian.

## Greatest Pull of All.

The "suffrage question" still hangs on and seems to be invincible as Sparta and Athens of old.

Foremost among the speakers and debaters of this question are Messrs. Flood, Turnbull, Braxton, Glass and Wyser, who has a suffrage plan of his own, which he sustains firmly and unyielding to any one. Mr. Wyser is said to have been considered by ex-President Cleveland, one of the finest debating orators "Uncle Sam" had.

It is hard for those not attending convention to understand how so much time is consumed.

Lord Wyser truthfully said:  
"The world is a wagon-load of hay, Mankind are the asses that pull, They all pull in a different way."

These convention men pull in different ways; there are so many conflicting interests.

One man will make a speech and pull with all his might in one way; soon as he is seated up jumps another and pulls against the first; soon as he is seated up jumps a third and pulls against the other two with all his might and power; it is then time for the convention to adjourn, which it does, until the next day. This often goes on for days and days before a decision is reached.

But the greatest of all the "pulls" is the "suffrage pull," which has not yet been "pulled" through.

Senator Daniel has not returned; it is said "he is in bad health."

Most of the members treated themselves to new suits of clothes Christmas, which gives them a newer appearance.—Tidewater Democrat.

## Corporations.

A powerful commission, composed of the very best men obtainable, is the thing needed; a commission clothed with power to compel the corporations to respect the interests of the public. Such a commission would not, in our opinion, retard the progress of the State, but would create activity, for the less favored corporations would receive even-handed justice with all the powerful and influential ones, and industry would be stimulated along all lines. Let the corporations have justice, but demand of them justice in return. If the convention shall adjourn without providing for the control of corporations, the State will be held and controlled by them.—Appomattox Times.

## Know Their Work Best.

The members of the Constitutional Con-

vention represent the brains of the State of Virginia. If there could be gathered to a set of men capable of drafting a constitution, the men who now compose that body are certainly the men, and if a constitution can be framed, it seems that the ones engaged upon that task are certainly capable of performing it satisfactorily. But if the Constitution is referred to the people the probabilities are that it would be defeated, for the reason that the people generally have such a vague idea of what they want.

The present framers of the Constitution are capable men, and they should complete their work—give the people the very best constitution in their power, which no one but believes they will, and the document should be proclaimed.—Roanoke Daily News.

## It Is Proclamation.

As there seems to be some prospect of a conclusion of the Constitutional Convention soon of these days, the question arises: "How shall the product of their labors be adopted?"

One method is by a plebiscite. A second method is by a modified plebiscite. A third method is by a proclamation. We presume that one of these methods will be adopted.

Suppose the first method shall be adopted. Then, we have gone to useless expense. The thousands of dollars that the convention costs are spent in vain. Will not every one who is disfranchised vote against the Constitution? And will not each labor with all his friends to persuade them to oppose it? Most assuredly!

The second method is also doubtful. If only those who would be voters under the proposed Constitution are allowed to vote upon its adoption, every man who failed to get the reforms he wanted would be liable to oppose it, and again its adoption would be problematical.

So, this method of adoption seems to

be barred.

Proclaim it, seems to be the only method that will secure the fruits of the work that has cost so much time and money.

All, or nearly all, Republicans will vote against anything that the convention may do. With the Republicans a unit against the matter, and the Democrats very much mixed, there is no choice. It is proclamation or nothing.—Gordonsville Gazette.

## Satisfied.

The people who are always insisting on good measure, and weigh everything they take home, can hardly have a pleasant path in life, but they do a great deal of good and the world would be much worse off without them.

So far as the work of the Constitutional Convention goes, it would not do to accept the statements of the dissatisfied with it any more than it would do to say that the convention has made unexampled speed in the work before it. If the convention has left undone some things, it has accomplished others.—Warrenton Virginian.

## Opponents.

If the new Constitution is submitted to the qualified voters of the State, who of them and how many of them will oppose it. The Charlottesville Progress gives the following list:

The office-holding wing of the Democratic party.

The vast body of friends and relatives they can influence.

The disinterested reformers who didn't get this thing and that thing they wanted.

The white Republicans.

The qualified black Republicans.

The men who sincerely opposed all reform.

The corporations.

Their employees, through coercion.

And finally the purchasable of all parties—demagogues, ringsters, heelers, tricksters and bosses will unite in solid phalanx against it.

(Charlottesville Progress.)

## Tired of Long Haul.

Agreed. And we are willing to accord the convention its just meed of praise. We, like the people, however, wish that body would blow off the brakes and turn on a full head of steam. The people are tired of such a long haul at their expense.

If the convention would adjourn to this town and fill up with the brain-producing products of the noble York, they might return to the Capital City and "crawl" the Constitution through.

West Point Plain Dealer.

## Work to Gain Ill Will.

The Constitutional Convention has done much to gain the ill-will of the people. It has probably done much to gain approval when the people come to know what has been done; but it will bring discredit upon its membership and the Democratic party if it adopts the prohibition clause, introduced by Mr. Barbour. The result of such a clause would mean to transfer the liquor traffic from the hands of good and respectable and law-abiding men to law-breakers, who of necessity would be of a disreputable class. It would rob the State of thousands of dollars of revenue, and, while not correcting the evil sought to be remedied, would increase the use of impure liquor and add to rather than prevent drunkenness.

(Alexandria Times.)

## Place for the Prophet.

The man who predicted that the Constitutional Convention would adjourn by February 15th must have found out by this time that he will never get a job as a prophet, unless it be in the United States Weather Bureau.

(Fredericksburg Star.)